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THE MORNING NEWS

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Netanyahu reiterates objection to Iran nuclear arms



JERUSALEM (AFP) - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated on Thursday that Israel will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran, after returning from White House talks centred on Tehran's nuclear programme.

"We cannot accept that Iran has nuclear weapons because that would represent a danger to the existence of our country," the premier said in an interview on private Channel 10 television.

"We have the right, but also the duty to defend ourselves."

Western powers and Israel believe that Tehran's nuclear programme is aimed at acquiring an atomic bomb, but Iran insists its activities are peaceful.

Asked if he were prepared to let international sanctions

against Iran work before attacking Iran, he replied: "I don't operate with a stop watch in my hand."

"We would be very happy if everything were resolved in a peaceful fashion, if Iran renounced its nuclear programme, dismantled its installations, especially in Qoms, and stopped enriching uranium," he said.

"If the sanctions work, all the better, but we don't know."

Netanyahu, who met with President Barack Obama on Monday and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday, put the world on notice that his patience was wearing thin and that, if necessary, he would launch unilateral strikes.

The Obama administration says it does not believe Iran has taken a decision to develop a nuclear weapon, or that the time is right for military action, preferring to give biting new sanctions time to work.

But Israel claims the Islamic Republic may be on the cusp of "breakout" capability -- when it could quickly build a nuclear weapon.

"Connecting Girls-Inspiring Futures" Aruba celebrates the "gentle" gender on International Women's Day



Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar opens the conference

"Today is about celebrating all we have accomplished and achieved, so far," Aruba's Minister of Social & Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar told the audience of more than 600 who came to attend a full day of lectures and panel discussions at Aruba's Women's Day Conference in the Renaissance Convention Center, to observe International Women's Day 2012, "then we can recognize the areas in which we still have some way to go."

The first of seven women speakers for March 8, Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar then elaborated on both topics. Her presentation outlined where Aruban women stand within their society, and the advancements and setbacks they have faced, much of it based on information from the Central Bureau of Statistics and records from her ministries.

Some encouraging facts: Aruban women outnumber men in attending the higher levels of education-57 women to 47 men, as of 2010, however the numbers obtaining diplomas are nearly equal, with men edging out

an island and world wide census took place, life expectancy for woman increased, for men as well, the gap between increased became great in that time though, with women living six years longer, on the average.

In regards to economic participation, there has been a marked increase of women entering the workforce, with a drastic change from 1960, when only 26.7% of the female population was working to 60.5% in 2010, with many advancing to extremely high positions never before attainable.

Continue on pg 2



Former PM Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Doina Eman and Lainda Kemp Westerhof parliamentarian



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Aruba celebrates the “gentle” gender on International Women’s Day

Continued from pg 1



CEDEHM staff



First Lady Doina Eman and Dr. Jean Houston



Minister with Rebecca Roos and Women of In Her Hand



Minister Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar and Evelyn Wever Croes

However, there is a persistent discrepancy in the “equal work, equal pay” concept and studies have shown men making as much as 700 Aruban florins (\$400) per month more than women who perform equivalent work.

It appears Aruban women also have to deal with the sexualization of their self-image, often exploited in advertising and media and in

the society, sometimes from a very young age. Anecdotal information indicates possible substance abuse also interfering with the ability to cope or advance, this the stress caused by women taking on too many responsibilities: working, parenting, and community contributing; Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar indicated much more research is needed to accurately assess this situation.

Social Services reported that of those coming to their offices for helping 2011, and overview reveals 28% were men and 72% women. “This could just indicate that women are better at asking for help than men,” she pointed out, “it requires far more research to fully understand its meaning.”

Finalizing her presentation, she suggested various methods for improvement, foremost relating to the theme of this year’s International Women’s Day, “Educating Girls-Inspiring Futures,” but she also reminded the audience it is not only for females “we have to educate boys and enlist men in the program as well, to make it work.”

Another area in which Aruba has been lacking female participation and equality is politics; the first woman in Aruban politics was Laura Wernet-Paskel in 1949. As of the last elections in 2009, there has been a marked closing of the gap between male and female parliamentarians, but still, Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar is only the 5th woman to head a ministry out of the 6 elections conducted since Aruba achieved electoral autonomy.

On that note, the following speaker was particularly significant. Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage was the last Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles from 26 March 2006 until their dissolution on 10 October 2010. She is now a member of the Council of Women World Leaders, an International network of current and former women presidents and prime

ministers whose mission is to mobilize the highest-level women leaders globally for collective action on issues of critical importance to women and equitable development and is leader of the Party for the Restructured Antilles.

The morning session was punctuated by the short film “By Her Hand” by Rebecca Roos, the first woman on Aruba to establish a major documentary production company. The film profiles Aruban women who are dynamic role models for young island women, in a variety of roles, such as President of the Central Bank of Aruba, Jane Semeleer, artist and community activist Giolina Henriquez, and Esther Offringa-Williams, mother of world-champion windsurfer Sarah-Quita Offringa, who left her work to support her children in their pursuit of success.

Other speakers for the day included Beth Brooks, Global

Vice-Chair of Ernst & Young, principal sponsors of the conference, motivational speakers Crystal Andrus and singer Natalie Hughes, and in the afternoon, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jean Houston, considered one of the foremost visionary thinkers and doers of our time and one of the principal founders of the Human Potential Movement.

The conference ends today at the YMCA in the Dakota section of Oranjestad beginning at 9:00 PM. It is special program conducted by CEDEHM, sponsored by The Women’s Club of Aruba, in which they will be launching a Domestic Violence Interactive workshop. CEDEHM, an organization which assists women with counseling, job training and other services, is celebrating their founding one year prior, which marked Aruba’s observation of International Women’s Day 2011.

Rosalie Klein



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Good News from AVIANCA 700 additional seats from Bogota!

This week Aruba was pleased to receive the good news from AVIANCA airlines, that they are confirming an additional 700 airline seats per month from Bogota to Aruba!

This actually means 150 additional seats per week! This is made possible due to the fact that they recently changed the type of aircraft they were flying. The A319 aircraft has been replaced by a A320 aircraft which has more seating capacity. This change has been in effect since last month February. Five times per week they will fly the A320 and twice weekly the A319 carrier.

Last Wednesday the government met with AVIANCA executives and ATA to discuss various matters of common interest. In this meeting it was obvious, according to observers, that this airline has great confidence in Aruba.

Present at this encounter with AVIANCA were Adriana Hurtado, Director of Route Planning for AVIANCA; AVIANCA Station Manager in Aruba, Avelino Contreras; Director of ATA Latin America; Sanju Daryanani, CMO of ATA; Maria Victoria Galan of ATA Colombia; Ana Ostrower of ATA Brasil and Marcos Sydor of ATA Argentine.

Wrestle Mania XXVIII now on Cable Digital PPV

SEROE BLANCO -- Aruba Telecommunication company, SETAR N.V., announces to its Cable Digital clients, particularly Wrestling fans, they now can watch the year's biggest event, the Wrestle Mania XXVII, via Pay Per View (PPV).

Wrestle Mania XXVIII can be viewed on Digital Cable channel 113. Clients can order their PPV via telephone 525-1700. SETAR Cable Services will include the Wrestle Mania XXVIII fee in the monthly Cable billing.

"Wrestle Mania" was introduced in 1985 and became a tremendous success. Today the WWF is the biggest annual event ever in the world of wrestling. Star fighters such as The Undertaker, Hulk Hogan, Bret Hart, Shawn



Michaels and Steve Austin were at some time all featured in this event.

Wrestle Mania XXVIII is the forthcoming twenty-eighth annual Wrestle Mania professional wrestling pay-per-view (PPV) event produced by WWE. It is scheduled to take place on April 1, 2012 at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

The main event heading into Wrestle Mania XXVIII

will feature, for the seventh consecutive year, ex-champion Duane Johnson, The Rock going up against World heavyweight ex-champion John Cena

The other four bouts on program include:

- Daniel Bryan vs. Sheamus, Singles match for the World Heavyweight Championship;

- CM Punk vs. Chris Jericho, Singles match for the WWE Championship;

- The Undertaker vs. Triple H, Hell in a Cell match;

- Cody Rhodes vs. Big Show, Singles match for the WWE Intercontinental Championship.

For more information, readers may call at tel. 525-1700 or visit the website www.setar.aw

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ZoiA, a stunning new day spa, unveiled at the Hyatt Regency Resort & Casino



A toast to the new ZoiA Day spa

Hyatt Regency Resort & Casino has added on "Spa" to the end of their name, and rightly so, as what a spa it is. \$5 million in renovations and attention to detail is evident in every aspect of the facility, located just right of the main reception desk, including their choice of featuring a

of such facilities on Aruba, which is luxurious, comprised of 8 treatment rooms, including 2 couple rooms, one with its own 2-person whirlpool bath and private terrace overlooking the sea. Many have private bathrooms for patrons taking lengthy treatments, so one



Karen show private shower for after body scrubs (L), whirlpool bath for two

ZoiA deploys a number of well-known lines from the U.S. and Europe, Naturopathica and Kerstin Florian, but they are particularly proud of the Dinah Veeris custom-designed all-natural treatments based on the four key Caribbean elements, sun, sand, sea and love. These address the various aspects for which patrons indulge in a spa, and are also color-keyed to the Aruban flag in yellow, white, blue and red. The energizing 'sun' treatment is yellow, the white 'sand' is purity, the blue 'sea' provides serenity and relaxations and the 'red,' signifying love, devotion and commitment, infuses a sense of well-being.

Dinah Veeris, based out of Curacao, has been a pioneer in the production and promotion of treatments incorporating locally grown

ingredients, such as aloe, calendula, datu, kalbas and other lesser known plants which have been reliable, traditional

and tranquility," commented Hyatt General Manager, Fred Hoffman, when welcoming island media for a tour during



Island media in the relaxation room

remedies for centuries. They have also taken the natural theme through to their décor, which uses recycled materials in the flooring, mirror frames and artwork.

"The new spa will offer an idyllic location for serenity

the official opening. "We are excited to introduce current and future guest to our new ZoiA concept."

Open from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM daily, the luxurious ZoiA Spa offers a full menu of individual treatments and packages dedicated to pampering the body and restoring the spirit as well salon services, and make-up specialists for brides. Contact them at 586-1234 to reserve a treatment; take a virtual tour and peruse their list of services at: <http://aruba.hyatt.com/hyatt/pure/spas/about/features.jsp>



private terraces to relax and commune with nature

special line of Dinah Veeris skin and body care products which incorporate many of the natural, healing herbs and plants indigenous to the Caribbean. "ZoiA" is derived from a Papiamento word meaning "balance," or "poise."

Spa Director Karen Cofino is a veteran manager

does not need to leave the tranquil environment of the treatment room. The community relaxation room allows for socializing and is stocked with complimentary beverages, healthy snacks of nuts and dried fruits, and will offer muffins and other freshly baked treats during the day.



Exclusive line of Dinah Veerah holistic treatments



Rosalie Klein

Aruba beaches to get expensive facelift!



The Council of Ministers has recently approved spending 6 million Florins from the FDA coffers to upgrade 5 of our beaches. Initially the intention was to upgrade 3 of our beaches. However, the Minister of Tourism, together with FDA, the Department of Economic Affairs, DOW and the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TPEF), decided to include 2 more beaches to be upgraded.

Very soon a Public Tender will be issued for improving the facilities at the beaches for the benefit of both our local citizens and our visitors. The initial 3 beaches that were approved for upgrading were Arashi, Baby Beach and Mangel Halto. The beach at Zeewijk, in San Nicolaas and the beach above Havana have been added, making it 5 beaches that will be upgraded and made more attractive for everyone.

All necessary facilities will be placed at these beaches, while at the beach near Havana they will build a ramp to lower boats.

There will be an investment of 6 million Florins for the 5 beaches from the FDA funds. An additional 1 million Florins will be dedicated to a Life Guard project for Baby Beach as well as sing posts and solar lighting, and waste baskets. This extra money will come from the TPEF fund.

Hence, the total investment in the upgrading and beautification of our beaches will amount to 7 million Florins. This, according to the Minister of Tourism, will definitely improve the local and visitor experience at our beaches and improve the quality of our tourism facilities, our Aruba Product.



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Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort hosts the Renewal Ceremony of Jayna and David



After 20 years of marriage, Jayna and David Shelton, from Phoenix Arizona, say "I Still Do!" to each other on Bucuti's powder-white beaches.

The vow renewal ceremony was performed by Diane Keijzer, who has been in contact with the couple for weeks, personalizing their special vows.

On the afternoon of the ceremony, the couple actually started to feel a little nervous. To Jayna it felt like they were getting married again for the first time. A quick trip to the beach bar and chatting with the officiant and planner seem

to do the trick, and moments later, Jayna and David were ready to once again walk down the aisle, this time together hand in hand.

David and Jayna met when David just moved to Memphis, Tennessee. David placed an ad in the newspaper, looking to meet someone who enjoys pets and travel. Jayna's best and luckily influential friend Jill told her she should answer to David's ad. They met for drinks, fell in love and one year later the couple was married.

When the opportunity for a business trip to Aruba came along, David chose to extend his stay with a few days of relaxation and romance and stayed in one of Bucuti's award-winning Superior rooms.

Jayna and David currently live in Arizona with their beloved dog they named Memphis.



Photos by Diane Keijzer

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Syria's deputy oil minister resigns, joins revolt

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria's deputy oil minister resigned on Thursday to join an anti-regime revolt, as UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan urged more diplomacy rather than militarisation to end the crisis in Syria.

Activists said they feared an assault on villages in the Jabal al-Zawiya hill district in the northwest, where rebels have been active, similar to the one that devastated the Baba Amr neighbourhood of Homs.

A child was among eight people killed in violence across the country, said the Syrian Observatory for

Human Rights, which this week put the number of people killed since the uprising began a year ago at almost 8,500.

Abdo Hussameddin, who took his bachelor's degree in battered Homs, announced his resignation in a video posted by activists on YouTube.

"I, the engineer Abdo Hussameddin, the deputy oil minister ... announce my defection from the regime and my resignation," "I am joining the revolution of the people who reject injustice and the brutal campaign of the regime, which is seeking to crush the people's demand for freedom and dignity," he added.

The defection was welcomed by Syrian opposition leader Burhan Ghalioun, who told AFP he expects more government officials and politicians to do the same.

Washington cautiously welcomed the news, with State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland saying "it would be very good news."

adding that the United States could not authenticate the YouTube video

Former UN chief Annan told reporters in Cairo he had urged "the Syrian opposition to come together to work with us to find a solution that will respect the aspirations of the Syrian people."

He also warned against further militarisation of the crisis, amid a groundswell of international support for arming the rebels. The mostly army defectors who make up the Free Syrian Army are heavily outgunned by the regime forces they are battling in a number of flashpoint areas.

Annan, who is head to Damascus on Saturday, warned of "the possible impact of Syria on the region if there is any miscalculation."

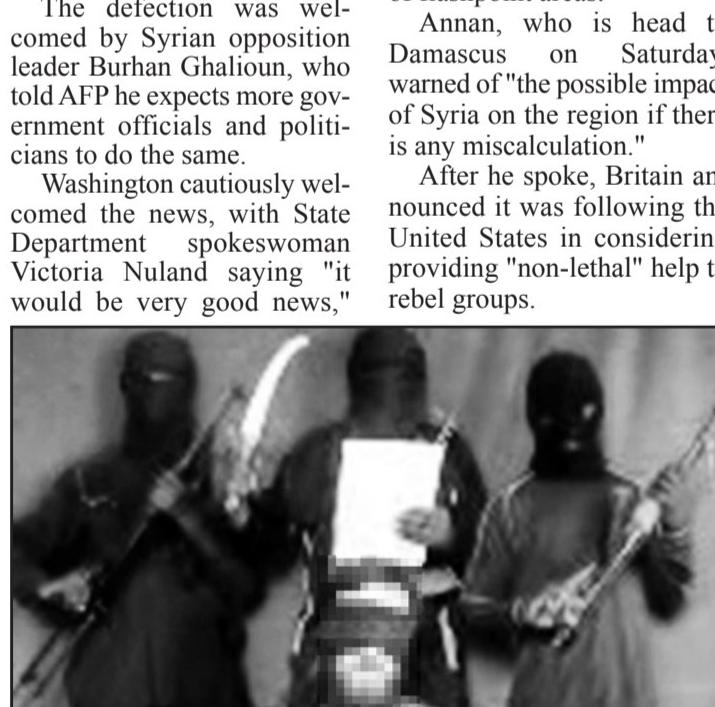
After he spoke, Britain announced it was following the United States in considering providing "non-lethal" help to rebel groups.

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"Together we will learn"



NIGERIA, - : This handout video grab released by the Nouakchott Information Agency (ANI) and obtained by AFP on December 6, 2011 reportedly shows a kidnapped British national Chris McManus surrounded by three alleged masked and armed members of an Al Qaeda-linked Nigerian group at an unidentified location on an unknown date. McManus and Italian colleague Franco Lamolinari taken hostage in northern Nigeria were apparently killed by their captors before they could be rescued in a military operation yesterday, Britain's prime minister said. AFP/Photo

US designates Argentina as major money laundering country

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Argentina, Curacao and St Maarten have been designated as "major money laundering countries," a State Department report said Thursday, moving them up a notch on a money laundering watchlist.

The annual International Narcotics Control Strategy report moved Argentina and the two Caribbean island entities to the list of "jurisdictions of primary concern" from the less acute "jurisdictions of concern" category.

Argentina, Curacao and St Maarten join a wide-ranging list of 66 countries that includes Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, the Cayman Islands, China, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe.

The report said the three have become "major money laundering countries," or those "whose financial institutions engage in currency transactions involving significant amounts of proceeds from international narcotics trafficking."

As in the previous reports, the March 2012 report has been sent to Congress, State Department officials said.

"Argentine and international observers express the

concern that money laundering related to narcotics trafficking, corruption, contraband, and tax evasion occurs throughout the financial system," the report said.

"It is also believed that most money laundering operations in Argentina are conducted through transactions involving specific offshore centers," it said.

In 2010, Curacao became a new autonomous country within the Netherlands, it said. The same year, St Maarten became an autonomous entity within the Netherlands.

"Curacao is a regional financial center and a transshipment point for drugs from South America bound for the United States and Europe. Money laundering is primarily related to proceeds from illegal narcotics," it said.

"The combating of drug trafficking is an ongoing concern for St. Maarten. Money laundering is primarily related to proceeds from illegal narcotics," the report said.

"Bulk cash smuggling and trade based money laundering may be a problem due to the close proximity of other Caribbean islands and the French part of the island, Saint Martin, which is a free trade zone," it added.

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Cuba blames US for impasse over Americas' summit

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba on Thursday denounced US opposition to its attendance at next month's Summit of the Americas gathering, and thanked host country Colombia for its efforts seeking a breakthrough that might have allowed it to take part.

Havana's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, upon learning that talks here had failed to reach "consensus," said he in-

terpreted the statement to mean that Washington continues to adamantly oppose Cuba's participation at the meeting.

"We all understand that consensus in this case means approval from Washington," Rodriguez told reporters.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, whose country is to host the meeting, traveled here for talks to resolve the

dispute.

He left Wednesday expressing regret at not having been able to reach an agreement of the participants that would have resolved the impasse.

Colombia's Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin meanwhile told reporters in Bogota Thursday that the issue of Cuba's participation in future Summit of the Americas gatherings would be placed on

the agenda for discussion at the upcoming meeting, currently scheduled for April 14-15 in Cartagena.

The Summit of the Americas is an event closely linked to the Washington-based Organization of American States (OAS), a group that expelled Cuba in 1962.

The talks here this week were aimed at dissuading leftist countries from boycotting

Libyan premier wants US help on Kadhafi backers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Libya's interim Prime Minister Abdel Rahim al-Kib on Thursday appealed for US help to get the "remnants" of the Kadhafi regime and finally bring to an end what he called the "war of liberation."

Kib appeared to suggest he wanted members of the ousted regime of slain dictator Moamer Kadhafi handed over for justice.

But a senior US State Department official told reporters later that the Libyans are asking Washington to persuade countries harboring Kadhafi family members to prevent them from spouting rhetoric challenging the new government.

Saadi Kadhafi, one of Kadhafi's sons, told Al-Arabiya television from Niger last month that a nationwide rebellion is brewing against the country's new rulers as he vowed to return to his homeland.

Kadhafi's daughter Aisha angered her Algerian hosts in November when she called for the overthrow of Libya's interim government.

"After we get those remnants of the past regime, it will be over," Kib said, referring to what he called "the war of liberation."

He said the US private sector can help rebuild the country while he promised to continue the country's transition to democracy.

Clinton praised the progress made by the interim rulers who replaced Kadhafi after he was overthrown in August following a six-month armed rebellion that left thousands dead and ended 42 years of iron-fisted rule.

Kib and US officials meanwhile played down concerns that Libya would split into western and eastern halves.

the regional meeting, amid controversy over whether Communist-ruled Cuba should be invited to the event.

In February, the leftist president of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, called for leftist Latin American nations belonging to the ALBA, a Venezuelan-backed regional group, to boycott the Summit of the Americas if Cuba is not invited.

Health & Living

US Army suicides rose 80% after start of Iraq War: study

(AFP) - The number of suicides in the US Army rose by 80 percent after the United States launched the war on Iraq, American military doctors reported on Thursday.

From 1977 to 2003, the tally of army suicides had trended slightly downwards, and was far below civilian rates.

But it started to curve upwards in 2004, the year after the US-led invasion, according to their analysis, published in the British journal Injury Prevention.

In 2008, 140 army personnel committed suicide, a figure 80 percent higher than in 2004 when measured in "person-years," a benchmark used by health experts, and much higher than in civilian society, it found.

"This increase, unprecedented in over 30 years of US Army records, suggests that 30 percent of suicides that occurred in 2008 may be associated with post-2003 events following the major commit-

ment of troops to Iraq, in addition to the ongoing operations in Afghanistan," says the paper.

Those who died were overwhelmingly male, young, white, in the lower military ranks and likelier to have had a history of depression and other mental disorders.

The rise mirrored an increase in consultations and hospitalisation for mental health. From 2003, these rates nearly doubled.

"The 2008 rate indicates that more than one-fifth of all active-duty soldiers had an ambulatory [walk-in] visit for a mental health disorder, implying a prevalent public health problem," warns the study.

In 2008, nearly a third of the suicides occurred among troops who had never deployed, which highlights the need to provide counselling for young soldiers facing pre-combat stress, it adds.

The study was headed by

Michelle Canham-Chervak of the US Army Public Health Command, using information from the Army Behavioral Integrated Data Environment.

This is a data bank that combines several national military sources, including details about medical consultations, diagnoses and treatment.

The study dissected the figures for 2007 and 2008, and compared these with previous years.

It did not include other branches of the US military, nor did it examine trends after President Barack Obama's decision to pull out of Iraq, an operation that concluded last December.

1,000 women a day die in childbirth, says MSF

GENEVA (AFP) - About 1000 women die each day in childbirth or from preventable complications related to pregnancy, humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) said Thursday.

"Worldwide, at any time, 15 percent of pregnancies incur the risk of a potential fatal complication," said Kara Blackburn, responsible for women's health at MSF in a statement to mark International Women's Day.

"Women must have access to quality obstetric care, whether they live in Sydney, Port-au-Prince or Mogadishu," said Blackburn.

She said that access should be the same whether at a modern hospital in a major city, in a conflict zone, a refugee camp or in a shelter after an earthquake.

A report entitled "Maternal mortality: a preventable crisis", published in Geneva, shows how MSF emergency obstetric care provided in humanitarian crisis situations can save lives.

The organization believes the solution lies in implementing programmes, especially regarding obstetric complications, the training of specialised personnel and access to appropriate medical equipment.

MSF provides obstetric care in nearly 30 countries.



Health Tip:

When Your Child Cries at Night

-- Though it's tempting for parents to run to their child at the slightest cry during the night, experts say that's not always the best reaction.

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers these suggestions for when your child cries at bedtime:

- Wait a few minutes before responding; if the crying continues, wait longer each time before you respond to the cries.
- Offer reassurance that you're there, but don't play, linger or turn on a light if you do enter the room.
- Each time you enter the room, stay a little farther from the bed; eventually, reassure your child without entering the room.
- When your child calls for you, offer a gentle reminder that it's time to go to sleep.

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Death-row inmates main source of organs in China: report

BEIJING (AFP) - Executed prisoners were still the main source of organs used in transplant operations in China due to the lack of voluntary donations, a top health official was quoted saying this week.

China has long vowed to reduce its reliance on death-row inmates for organs, but high demand and a chronic shortage of donations meant they remained a key source, the Legal Daily quoted Vice Health Minister Huang Jiefu as saying.

Huang reportedly made the remarks on the sidelines of the country's annual parliamentary session in Beijing where about 3,000 delegates from across the country have gathered for 10 days of meetings.

China banned the trade in human organs in 2007 and two years later began rolling out a nationwide donation system, but demand for organ transplants still far exceeds supply in the country of 1.3 billion people.

About 10,000 transplants are carried out annually, but an estimated 1.3 million people are waiting for transplants, state media said previously, opening the door to the illegal sale of organs and forced donations.

The Chinese Medical Association, an official body representing doctors, said in 2007 that China would no longer transplant organs from executed prisoners except for their immediate relatives, earlier reports said.

In 2009 Huang said the rights of death-row inmates were respected and written consent from prisoners was required before their organs could be harvested, the China Daily said at the time.

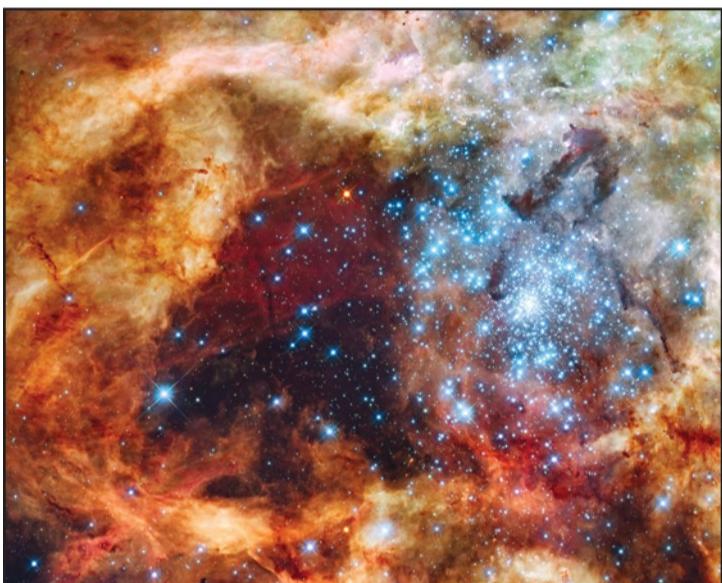
But Huang admitted that executed prisoners were "definitely not a proper source for organ transplants".

International human rights groups have long accused China of harvesting organs from executed prisoners for transplant without the consent of the prisoner or their family -- charges the government has denied.

Amnesty International China researcher Sarah Schafer said Huang's latest comments suggested "nothing much has changed".

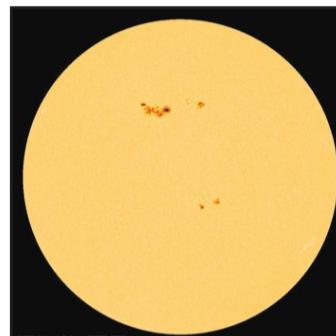
"We feel that this lack of progress is quite chilling," Schafer told AFP. "There's no way a prisoner facing execution can give meaningful consent."

Sci-Tech



This NASA image released March 8, 2012, taken in ultraviolet, visible and red light by Hubble's Wide Field Camera 3, spans about 100 light-years. The nebula is close enough to Earth that Hubble can resolve individual stars, giving astronomers important information about the stars' birth and evolution. This massive, young stellar grouping, called R136, is only a few million years old and resides in the 30 Doradus Nebula, a turbulent star-birth region in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way. There is no known star-forming region in the Milky Way Galaxy as large or as prolific as 30 Doradus. Many of the diamond-like icy blue stars are among the most massive stars known. Several of them are 100 times more massive than our sun. These hefty stars are destined to pop off, like a string of firecrackers, as supernovas in a few million years. These observations were taken October 20-27, 2009. The blue color is light from the hottest, most massive stars; the green from the glow of oxygen; the red from fluorescing hydrogen.

AFP PHOTO



This March 8, 2012 NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) shows giant sunspots AR1429(Upper-L) and AR1430(Upper-R) on the face of the Sun. Sunspot region (AR1429) unleashed an X5 class flare (the second largest of this solar cycle) late on March 6, 2012. The bright flash of the flare (along with several smaller flashes) was associated with a large coronal mass ejection (CME). Simulations by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Space Weather Laboratory indicate that the leading edge of the CME will reach Earth at about 2012-03-08 06:25 UT (plus minus 7 hours) and might cause a severe/extreme geomagnetic storm.

AFP PHOTO

Actor Alan Alda sponsors 'fiery' science contest

WASHINGTON (AP) - American actor Alan Alda remembers the disappointment of being 11 and asking a teacher about the flame at the end of a candle, only to be brushed off with the answer: "It's oxidation."

So decades later, the celebrity who rose to fame on the 1970s-80s television series *M*A*S*H* has launched an international science contest to seek answers to that very question, with 11-year-old kids acting as the judges.

"We're asking scientists to answer the question -- 'What is a flame?' -- in a way that an 11-year-old would find intelligible and maybe even fun," said the contest website at flamechallenge.org.

Of course, Alda is not only just looking for the answer to his long-ago question, he is also trying to promote better science communication in all realms of life.

In an editorial in *Science* magazine last week, the now 76-year-old Alda wrote about his memories of that interaction, and the realization he has come to as an adult that poor communication can have dangerous consequences.

"That was a discouraging moment for me personally, but decades later I see the failure to communicate science with clarity as far more serious for society," he wrote.

"Scientists have recognized for some time that there is a harmful gap in understanding between their work and much

of the rest of the world -- one that can hold back scientific progress."

Alda is a founding member of the Center for Communicating Science based in the School of Journalism at Stony Brook University in New York, where he is also a visiting professor.

The contest is being run by the center, and has already received 100 entries in its opening days since March 2, including some from Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Britain, Saudi Arabia, India and Lebanon, a spokeswoman told AFP.

Contest entries can come from anywhere in the world, and university staff is working with US teachers to form a judging panel of 10,000 US kids.

Entries can be written, on video, or in graphic form. The deadline to enter is April 2, 2012.

The winner will get a T-shirt and free VIP passes to the World Science Festival in New York in June.

"So here I am -- I'm 11 years old and looking up at you with the wide eyes of curiosity. What is a flame? What's going on in there? What will you tell me?" Alda wrote in *Science*.

The university said it hopes to hold another such contest next year, and that it will ask the children who participate as judges to pick the next big question.

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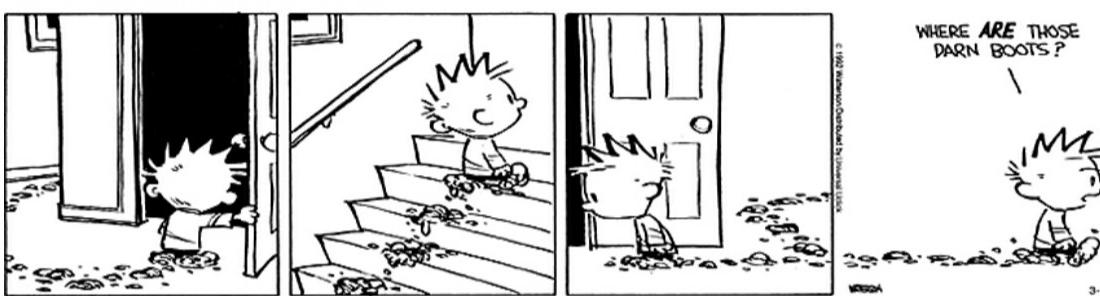
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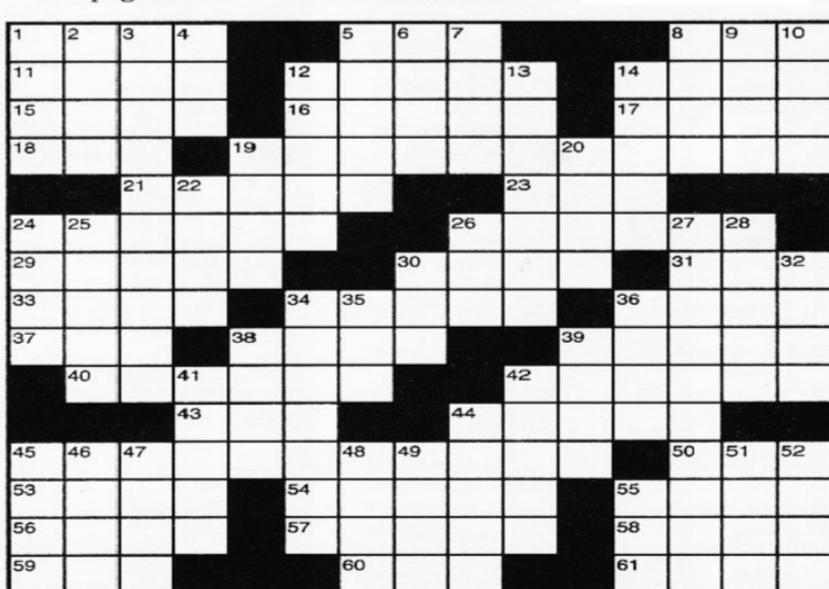
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ACROSS

- Dandies
- Gabor of "The Truth About Women"
- NBA's rival, formerly
- Chinese nurse
- Wild pony
- Minor misunderstanding
- Word after rat or relay
- acid
- Henry IV, to Louis XIII
- Birthplace of Mindy's pal
- Spars
- Overlooks
- B'way sellout sign
- Makes available
- Advertising copy
- Loses one's balance
- Sandpaper has it
- Like le mot juste
- Move swiftly
- Corps
- Fee for changing money
- Mariner's dir.
- Piece for Steve and Eydie
- Reinforce
- Pungent compounds
- Old cars, slangily
- Thole insert
- Gladden
- Baby, sentimentally
- Curie's workroom
- Complicated entree
- Deodar and baobab
- Spanish jar

DOWN

- "Buddy —" (Dennis Farina series)
- Sharif or Epps
- Perjurer's output
- "— Believes in Me" (Rogers)
- Columnist Bombeck and namesakes
- Empty space
- Caesar's year
- Apogee
- Seats for babies
- Mornay, e.g.
- Former Cosmos star
- Naval off.
- Illegal insecticide: abbr.
- Fabergé's sponsor
- "—" (Dennis Farina series)
- Be transformed by pity
- Switch positions
- Choice on a test
- Homeboy's honorific
- Trifles
- Islands (Moluccas)
- Acquired
- Shoe ends



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							8		6	7	
								6			5
								9	5	8	3
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6									6		
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4								6		3	
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SOLUTION

9	6	3	2	4	8	7	5	1
7	5	4	1	3	9	2	8	6
1	2	8	7	6	5	4	9	3
5	3	6	8	1	3	5	2	7
4	8	9	4	3	6	8		
2	7	1	5	7	8	3	4	
6	1	2	9	5	7	8	3	4
8	4	7	3	2	6	9	1	5
3	9	5	4	8	1	6	7	2

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A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
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Oil prices rally on hopes of Greek debt swap deal

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices rose strongly on Thursday as the euro gained on hopes Greece's debt swap would be successful, with tensions over Iran also supporting the crude market, analysts said.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in April, added 42 cents to settle at \$106.58 a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for April closed up \$1.32 to \$125.44 a barrel in London trade.

As the crude markets were closing Greece had racked up enough commitments from private creditors to support the debt-swap deal, which involves a 107 billion euro (\$140 billion) writedown of

the country's debt.

More than 75 percent of private holders of Greek debt -- the minimum threshold -- had indicated they plan to participate in the debt swap, a government source said hours ahead of the 2000 GMT deadline for the deal.

"Crude oil prices extended

gains, as the euro rebounded strongly above \$1.32 amid hopes for a positive result" in the Greek debt deal, said Sudden analyst Myrto Sokou.

"The Asian and European equity markets posted fresh gains while most commodity prices... climbed higher."

The weaker greenback makes dollar-priced crude cheaper for buyers using stronger currencies, thereby stimulating demand.

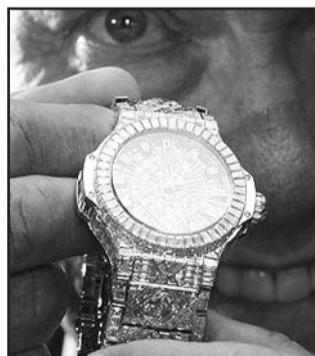
Meanwhile ExxonMobil said it expected that its production would drop three percent in 2012, but that its longer-term goal of boosting production by one percent annually through 2016 would not be impacted.

The oil giant said it would be spending \$37 billion a year on investment through then as well.

"An unprecedented level of investment will be needed to develop new energy technologies to expand supply of traditional fuels and advance new energy sources," said chief executive Rex Tillerson.

"We are developing a diverse portfolio of high-quality opportunities across all resource types and geographies."

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Swiss watchmaker Hublot CEO Jean-Claude Biver shows the new "5 Million Dollar Diamond Watch" during a news conference at Baselworld fair in Basel. The world's leading watch and jewellery show Baselworld is to be held in Basel from March 8 to March 15, 2012.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Finance

First step in closer commercial relationship signed in MOU between ATIA and Brazilian FIESP organization



ATIA's President Ronald van Trigt

According to Ronald van Trigt, ATIA president, the signing of an MOU with the Brazilian commercial organization FIESP symbolizes a very powerful partnership between Aruba and Brasil. Van Trigt considers their mission to Brasil as very successful.

FIESP represents almost 40% of the economy of Brasil, with a majority of the commercial organizations being members. Van Trigt believes that the signing of the MOU indicates that Brasil is very willing to assist Aruba in finding ways to better our co-operation.

According to the ATIA President, the MOU positions ATIA in the position to be able to offer their membership new opportunities. The Brazilian economy is already

the fifth largest economy in the world and a relationship with Brasil, with FIESP, gives Aruba an opportunity to diversify, to introduce new products, to create businesses in Aruba and to come up with ideas to expand our position, according to van Trigt.

Van Trigt was especially pleased with the presence of the Prime Minister. He believes that the PM's presence at this mission confirmed the seriousness of the Arubans in their quest to do business with Brasil and to create a working alliance with new economies. According to the ATIA President, several of those who went on this mission have already received business offers from Brasil, from FIESP. Plans are in the works to bring a delegation from Brasil to Aruba to see what Aruba can offer them.

Brasil is also a very interesting place touristically. ATIA is also contemplating plans to explore this aspect of Brasil. FIESP promised to put Aruba into contact with the various airline companies.

"We are attempting to develop permanent contacts with Sao Paulo. We are talking about many positive matters that we expect to crystallize very soon," says van Trigt.



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Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britia	GBP	2.73	2.78	2.84
Switzerland	CHF	193.74	194.46	195.26
Netherlands	EUR	231.56	233.67	236.02
Sweden	SEK	25.20	25.92	26.72
Denmark	DKK	30.47	31.19	31.99
Norway	NOK	30.41	31.13	31.93
Japan	JPY	218.56	220.55	222.77
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UN rights chief wants to see more women in leadership



GENEVA (AFP) - UN human rights chief Navi Pillay on Thursday called for women to play a greater role in global leadership, warning that failure to tap their immense potential comes "at our own peril".

"I call on governments, community leaders and heads of families around the world to recognise, acknowledge and tap into the enormous potential of women to positively impact the world around them," said Pillay in a statement marking International Women's Day.

High Commissioner for Human Rights Pillay cited UN statistics showing that as of last year, women held only 19.3 per cent of seats in single or lower houses of parliament worldwide.

She noted that only 12 of the Fortune 500 companies have women at the top.

At the same time, she said women in rural areas produce 60 to 80 per cent of the food in developing countries, while rarely having rights to the land they cultivate.

Pillay quoted UN Food and Agriculture Organisation figures showing that for every 100 land owners globally, only 20 are women.

"With too few women leaders in politics, and woefully insufficient numbers of women leaders in industry, women are not taking part in decisive discussions on how to respond to global crises," said Pillay.

"Such exclusion is at our own peril -- the refusal to embrace gender equality has led to many scourges, one tragic example being the ferocious spread of HIV/AIDS," she warned.

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Women call for greater equality on their day of rights



The head of the United Nations Women, Michelle Bachelet, speaks during a press conference in Rabat on March 8, 2012 during the International Women's Day.

RABAT (AFP) - UN women leaders on Thursday called for greater equality between the sexes on the occasion of International Women's Day amid demonstrations and marches for female rights.

Speaking in Rabat, Michele Bachelet, a former president of Chile who now heads UN Women, called for greater equality, especially in the countryside where inequality between men and women is "most marked".

"It's in rural areas that women and girl face most disparities and barriers," she told reporters during a trip to Morocco.

"One person in four worldwide is a woman or girl living in the countryside, and working long hours for low wages or no wages," according to Bachelet who was appointed last year to head the newly-created United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Despite their work, these women "face the worst of inequalities when it comes to access to social services and land ownership," Bachelet said.

Four out of five land owners are men, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, a UN body.

"Ensuring that women receive pay, along with the right to own property and obtain credit would allow for a reduction in the number of children suffering from malnutrition," Bachelet added.

She also criticized the limited number of women in positions of responsibility in government and business, along with "violence in all its forms" against them.

Navi Pillay, from South Africa, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, said for her part that the exclusion of women from politics and the economy remained the norm around the world.

Official statistics show that women held just 19.3 percent of parliamentary seats around the world last year, she said.

And on the economic front, just 12 of the world's top 500 businesses are led by women, she added.

The European Union commissioner for home affairs, Cecilia Malmstrom from Sweden, criticized the low number of women in European governments, while French euro-MP Sylvie Goulard complained that all European Central Bank

directors were men.

"Equality between men and women in the EU is just as important as balanced budgets," she said against a background of roaring public deficits that have threatened the stability of the euro.

In Europe, three women are heads of government -- in Germany, Denmark, and Slovakia -- while men hold two thirds of the seats in the European parliament.

In national parliaments, Sweden has most women -- 44.7 percent -- while Hungary has just 8.8 percent.

Several hundred women demonstrated in Sarajevo in favour of greater female representation in politics.

Quotas say women should hold at least 40 percent of elected posts in Bosnia, but the figure is just 17 percent, according to the demonstrators.

In Spain, trade unions and women's organisations expressed concern that the current economic crisis, associated with forced savings in public spending, was having a negative impact on equal pay for women.

The federation of progressive women said equality should not be "an extra" when the country fell on hard times.

In Tunis, several thousand women demonstrated outside parliament to warn against any attempt by the new Islamist-dominated government to curtail their rights.

"I've come to tell our elected leaders that the rights of Tunisian women must be written into the Constitution," said Jelila Bellalouna, a religious teacher.

"I'm doing that for my five-year-old niece so that she won't be forced later to wear a veil. I want her to be as free as I have been," she said.

Parliament has started to discuss the new Constitution amid calls by some Islamist parties for it to be based on religious Sharia law.

Several thousand women also demonstrated across Gaza and the West Bank to call for the release of a female prisoner -- Hanaa al-Shalabi -- on hunger strike in an Israeli jail.

15N15

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too

be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit



Gouda Burger 2

SPORTS

Football: Spanish press hails Messi's five-goal triumph



Barcelona : FC Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C), Barcelona's midfielder Andres Iniesta (L) and Barcelona's forward Pedro Rodriguez (R) celebrate after scoring a goal

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's press almost ran out of superlatives on Thursday to praise Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi after he scored a record five goals against Bayer Leverkusen, setting a Champions League record.

"Ave Messi" and "Hurricane Messi" the headlines glowed, after the Argentinian set a new benchmark for the competition during Barcelona's 7-1 demolition of the German team.

"The hand of God" headlined in unison three major sports papers Marca, Mundo Deportivo and Sport, borrowing the headline to describe Messi compatriot Maradona's controversial 1986 World Cup quarterfinals goal, scored with a handball.

"Starting out an article by

saying that Messi is hard to explain seems unacceptable, but that is the closest to the truth," Marca apologised in its match report, which listed past records set by the 24-year-old.

Messi's record five goals in a match came after he matched the most number of goals in the Champions League last season, with 12.

"And yesterday he had a headache," noted the Catalan daily Mundo Deportivo.

"The doctor gave him a painkiller, perhaps it was a Bayer aspirin, and off he ran," it joked, recalling that Messi had complained of a headache before the clash.

Under the headline "Hurricane Messi" the leading daily El Pais said: "No-one demands more of himself than Messi,

person to hold a position within football, paving the way for the disrepute charge.

The findings of the inquiry, led by senior Scottish judge William Nimmo Smith, were heard at a special SFA board meeting in Glasgow and will now be referred to a judicial panel.

SFA chief executive Stewart Regan said: "Principally, it

who transforms every match into a show, and takes criticism for the days he does not shine."

Marca noted that Messi was close to breaking yet another record, the 235 goals scored by club great Cesar Rodriguez : "Seven. Just seven goals separate 'The Flea' from the biggest scorer in Barca's history, Cesar Rodriguez.

"Messi is a machine who crushes everything in his path."

Meanwhile, Messi's teammates were also full of praise for the player, with Spain midfielder Xavi Hernandez saying the Argentinian had "no equal" in the game.

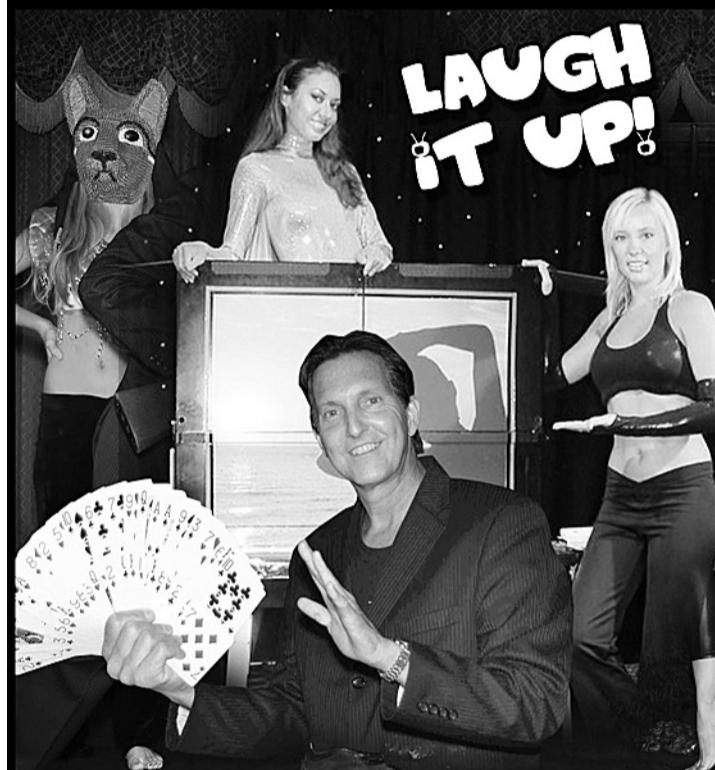
"Leo is peerless. You (journalists) naturally try to compare him to the greatest names but Messi is unique. He has no equal," Hernandez told a news conference in Barcelona, after being asked to compare him to Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo.

"No one makes a difference like him and no one gets involved as much as him. Even when he doesn't score, he makes decisive passes. He's a little marvel," he added.

Messi has scored 48 goals in all competitions this season, with Ronaldo on 38. In La Liga, however, the Portuguese is slightly ahead with 30 against Messi's 28.



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Football: Rangers hit with SFA disrepute charge

LONDON (AFP) - Rangers were plunged into fresh turmoil on Thursday after the financially stricken Glasgow giants were charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Scottish Football Association.

The SFA said in a statement an independent inquiry had ruled Rangers owner Craig Whyte was not a fit and proper

is the belief of the Board, taking into account the prima facie evidence presented today (Thursday), that Mr Craig Whyte is not considered to be a Fit and Proper person to hold a position within Association Football.

Baseball: Just be Yu advice to Darvish after exchange

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Japanese right-handed pitcher Yu Darvish received some advice from Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington after exchanging words with a rival batter after his Major League Baseball debut -- just be Yu.

Darvish pitched two scoreless innings and struck out three for the Rangers in his first exhibition start for the reigning American League champions as they faced the San Diego Padres in Peoria, Arizona.

Darvish surrendered two hits, the biggest of them a

double by Will Venable off the centerfield wall.

"I didn't really feel like he got me," Darvish said.

Venable was shocked when told of that response, possibly coming from a mix-up in translation.

"He was lucky that it didn't go out," Venable said. "Maybe his perception of reality isn't right on."

Washington was fine with Darvish saying the blast was no big deal.

"I would like for Yu to be Yu," Washington said. "If that's Yu and that's what he feels, say it. I'm not going to

take that away from him. As far as Venable goes, he said what he felt like he had to say. And now we move on."

As far as Darvish and his first taste of being hit by major league batters, Washington said, "He showed some confidence in himself and that's a good thing."

Darvish, a former star with Japan's Nippon Ham Fighters, took the experience in stride.

"Major league hitters have more power but Japanese hitters are very good at making contact," he said. "I don't like either."



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NBA: Spurs hand slumping Knicks another defeat



Matt Barnes #9 of the Los Angeles Lakers puts up a shot in front of Nick Young #1 of the Washington Wizards during the first half at the Verizon Center on Wednesday in Washington, DC.

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Tony Parker scored 32 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 118-105 NBA victory over New York on Wednesday, dealing the Knicks their third straight defeat.

Tim Duncan added 17 points for the Spurs, who also

got 17 from Manu Ginobili in the Argentine's second game back after a fortnight out with an abdominal strain.

Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points for the Knicks, who were without injured center Tyson Chandler as well as backup center Jared Jeffries.

Coach Mike D'Antoni opted to shuffle the players he had, starting Iman Shumpert in place of Landry Fields, but the new-look Knicks lineup showed little of the flair that saw them surge before the All-Star break with the emergence of point guard Jeremy Lin.

But the Knicks have since gone 3-6 and Anthony complained after a defeat at Dallas on Tuesday that he wasn't getting enough chances to score.

He had his opportunities on Wednesday, but the Knicks were hurt by the absence of Chandler on the defensive end.

Lin scored 14 of his 20 points in the second half. Amare Stoudemire had 18 points and 11 rebounds and D'Antoni said the Knicks need to set aside their frustrations and find a way to win.

"I understand the frustration," D'Antoni said. "We've just got to work through it. It's a combination of everything."

France's Parker gave the Knicks little time to figure out anything.

He scored 23 points in the first half as the hot-shooting Spurs built a 58-41 halftime lead.

San Antonio led by as many as 24 before the Knicks put together a 14-2 run, a rally that proved too little too late.

Meanwhile in Washington The Los Angeles Lakers squandered a 21-point third quarter lead also Wednesday en route to a 106-101 NBA loss to the lowly Washington Wizards.

Since beating championship contenders Miami on Sunday, the Lakers have fallen to two teams who are not in the play-off picture in the Pistons and the Wizards.

As in the defeat by Detroit, Lakers star Kobe Bryant struggled, shooting 9-of-31 from the field. That included just 3-of-18 shooting in the second half, when Washington out-scored Los Angeles by 20 points.

The Lakers fell to 6-14 on the road this season and wrap up their current three-game road trip at Minnesota today.

And in Miami LeBron James and the Miami Heat turned up the temperature in the third quarter on Wednesday, rallying from a 10-point deficit and going on to beat Atlanta 89-86 and take their NBA record to 30-9.

James led the way with 31 points and 11 rebounds. Dwyane Wade, who missed the second half of Tuesday's victory over New Jersey with a sore right ankle, made just one of seven attempts from the field in the first half, but finished with 18 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Heat.

Josh Smith did what he could, leading the Hawks with 23 points. Even the Heat's surge late in the third only tied the game heading into the final period at 68-68.

Smith capped a 9-0 Hawks spurt with a three-pointer to give Atlanta an 80-77 lead with 3:29 to play.

But Miami responded with baskets by Chris Bosh, Wade and Udonis Haslem to edge ahead 83-80.

The Heat led 85-81 when they gave up a three-point play, fouling Hawks guard Jannero Pargo as he drove for a layup.

Haslem stretched the advantage again, scoring off a pass from Wade for an 87-84 lead with 12 seconds remaining.

After a layup by Atlanta's Vladimir Radmanovic, Wade was fouled with 2.7 seconds remaining. He made both and Pargo was unable to convert a three-pointer at the buzzer to tie the game.

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NFL: Much-sought Manning likely to make quick pick

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - NFL star quarterback Peyton Manning is likely to make a quick decision about where to continue his career after being released by the Indianapolis Colts.

The four-time NFL Most Valuable Player has reportedly drawn enough interest from seven clubs that they contacted his agent after he was dropped by the Colts on Wednesday after 14 years, largely over money issues.

Manning, who turns 36 later this month, missed all of last season following surgeries to repair a neck injury but doctors have declared him fit to play.

The Colts, however, went 2-14 last season without him to claim the top pick in April's NFL Draft, giving them the chance to select college star quarterback Andrew Luck and make him Manning's replacement sooner rather than later.

Manning's release means he can sign with any time at any time, but with the NFL free agency signing window for most players starting next Tuesday, signing Manning ahead of that time frame figures to be best for Manning and suitors.

Among those coveting Manning are the Miami Dolphins, whose owner Steve Ross and new coach Joe Philbin already have a solid rusher in Reggie Bush and top receiver in Brandon Marshall.

NBA stars Dwyane Wade and LeBron James of the Miami Heat are already making a push for Peyton to join them in South Beach.

Manning has the leverage to dictate terms and see what teams will meet his desires, although some performance bonuses could be employed in light of the injury that sidelined him all of last season.

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Football: Brazil accepts FIFA 'kick up backside' apology



Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai (R) and FIFA President Sepp Blatter (L) arrive for the opening ceremony of the AFC Challenge Cup 2012 football match, between Nepal and Palestine, in Kathmandu on March 8, 2012. Palestine won the match 2-0.

AFP PHOTO

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil accepted FIFA's apologies over the World Cup 2014 'kick up the backside' controversy on Thursday, paving the way for President Dilma Rousseff to meet world football chief Sepp Blatter.

"The federal government accepts FIFA's apology and expects that this will not happen again," said a sports ministry statement.

FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke had caused a major rift last week when he said the organisers of the 2014 showpiece needed a "kick up the backside" to salvage various projects that had fallen behind schedule.

Sports minister Aldo Rebelo said he had sent two letters on Thursday to FIFA -- one to FIFA president Blatter and the other to Valcke.

In them, it was stated that President Rousseff would meet Blatter, although a date has yet to be confirmed.

Blatter had personally said sorry to the Brazilian government for the affair on Tuesday, one day after Valcke had been similarly contrite.

FIFA have for months expressed concern in varying degrees over the extent to which preparations -- renovation or construction of stadiums, as well as infrastructure projects -- are on track for the first World Cup in Brazil since 1950.

Valcke said he profoundly regretted that an incorrect in-

terpretation of his comments had triggered such an angry response from the host country.

"I would like to present my apologies to everyone who was offended by my comments," said Valcke, a French national.

He explained that in French, the phrase "se donner un coup de pied aux fesses" (to give someone a kick up the backside) only meant "to pick up the pace". The translation into Portuguese used a stronger expression, he added.

"I don't understand why things are not moving. The stadiums are not on schedule anymore and why are a lot of things late?" Valcke had said last Friday.

Meanwhile Legendary Brazilian striker Ronaldo admitted Wednesday that FIFA chief Jerome Valcke was right to highlight the problems plaguing organisers of the 2014 World Cup in the country.

"Valcke has already apologised to the Brazilian people. The way he made his criticisms was regrettable, but that is not to say that he wasn't right," Ronaldo told Bandeirantes TV in Sao Paulo.

"Brazil is late in infrastructure work, there are a lot of things which are behind schedule," added Ronaldo, who is a high-profile member of the organising committee.

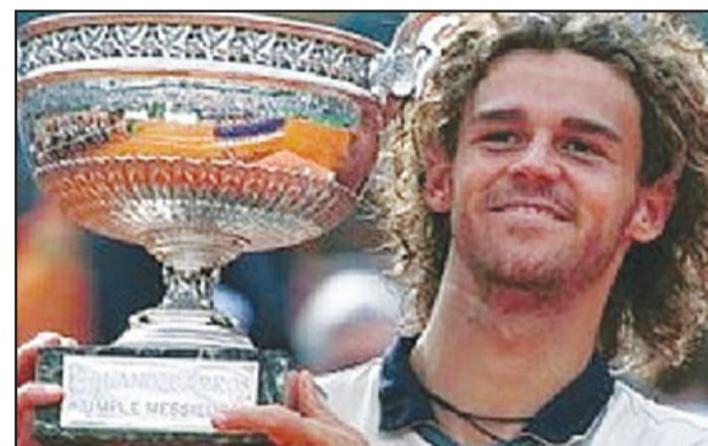
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Tennis: Brazil's Kuerten named to Hall of Fame



file-photoGustavo Kuerten (3-Time French Open Champion)

NEWPORT (AFP) - Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, a three-time Grand Slam title champion and former World No. 1, has been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, officials announced on Thursday.

Kuerten and others will be inducted into the sports shrine on July 14 during the ATP Hall of Fame Championships after receiving at least 75 percent support in a vote from an international media panel.

Kuerten, nicknamed "Guga", becomes the second Brazilian in the Hall of Fame after Maria Bueno, who was inducted in 1978.

Spending 43 weeks atop the world rankings, Kuerten reached his heights on the red clay at Roland Garros, win-

ning the French Open in 1997, 2000 and 2001.

"During my career in tennis I was fortunate to have many victories, but the Hall of Fame induction is a special one," Kuerten said.

Kuerten praised the influential players upon his career, in-

cluding legends Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras, John McEnroe and Andre Agassi.

"I was inspired by lots of great tennis players, like Maria Bueno and Thomas Koch, two of the biggest Brazilian tennis players, and I have also always greatly admired Hall of Famers including Borg, McEnroe, Sampras, and Agassi."

"To be honored in the same category as those great players is amazing."

Kuerten, 35, will be joined in induction by former Spanish star Manuel Orantes, administrator and promoter Mike Davies and the late Randy Snow from wheelchair tennis.

Kuerten's 1997 triumph in Paris was the first Grand Slam title by a Brazilian since Bueno won the 1966 US Open.

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